

Education Minnesota Voter Information: Senate District 45

Dear educator,

Those elected this November will make decisions that directly impact your students, pocketbook, profession and union. Because of this, we wanted to provide some information on where the candidates for Minnesota Senate in your district stand on the issues educators have said they care about the most.

A candidate's position is sometimes more complicated than a "yes" or "no" answer. We have done our best to represent each candidate in a fair and reasonable way. Unless noted otherwise, the statements were taken from Education Minnesota's candidate questionnaire.

For educators seeking more specific information on their local candidate's positions on Education Minnesota's top priorities of pay, pensions and health care, the questionnaires are available at www.edmnvotes.org.

How will you support unions as a state legislator?	
Ann Johnson Stewart On the picket line (if needed)! Meet with union members and make sure that their issues are addressed.	Kathleen Fowke A careful review of Fowke's campaign website, social media, and public statements has revealed no indication that she supports labor and collective bargaining.
How will you support efforts to lower inequitable penalties in the Teachers Retirement Association to expand retirement options?	
Ann Johnson Stewart I will take the cue from experts in this area. My parents were able to retire and live well on their pensions, and I know how important that is. Teachers work HARD and deserve a worry-free retirement.	Kathleen Fowke A careful review of Fowke's campaign website, social media, and public statements has not revealed her stance on the penalties for teacher pensions.
What will you do to help recruit and retain high-quality educators in our classrooms?	
Ann Johnson Stewart Pay them more. Make the amount of money they spend on supplies a TAX CREDIT. Give them more prep time and days off.	Kathleen Fowke A careful review of Fowke's campaign website, social media, and public statements has revealed no plan to invest in high-quality Minnesota teachers. However, she has expressed a willingness to make cuts to Minnesota's budget, which pays for public education, in favor of tax cuts. ¹ <small>¹ kathleenfowkeformn.com/priorities [WEB ARCHIVE]</small>